

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 130982

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 5535 SENT ACTIONSECSTATE DTD 04 JUNE 75

QUOTE:

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 5535

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS IMMEDIATE USCINCNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT,

DOD/ISA, CNO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI EG

SUBJ: SUEZ CANAL CEREMONIES: USS LITTLE ROCK PARTICIPATION

REF: STATE 128798(NOTAL); PARA 4 CAIRO 5347

1. AS OF 1500 LOCAL TODAY, NO ONE IN MFA, MINWAR
OR SCA COULD YET CONFIRM TO US THAT EGYPTIANS WILL
IN FACT MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OR TOMORROW ON
LITTLE ROCK'S PARTICIPATION IN TOMORROW'S CEREMONIES.
ALTHOUGH GAMASY MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY TO ME A FEW
DAYS AGO (CAIRO REFTEL), I GATHER HE TOLD ALUSNA YESTERDAY
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NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE. FOR PAST FEW DAYS

EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN IN STATE OF UTTER CONFUSION GETTING READY FOR SUEZ CANAL OPENING, AND MY GUESS IS THAT THEY HAVE NOT FOCUSSSED FURTHER ON THE MATTER OF ANNOUNCING LITTLE ROCK'S PARTICIPATION. FONMIN'S CHEF DE CABINET, AL-BAZ, HAS AGREED TO MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES AND LET US KNOW IF AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO BE MADE.

2. ASSUMING EGYPTIANS MAKE NO PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT, FACT OF LITTLE ROCK'S PARTICIPATION WILL BECOME KNOWN TOMORROW MORNING. IF QUERED AT THAT TIME BY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, AND OTHERS, I AM INSTRUCTING EMBOFFS TO RESPOND THAT A) GOE ASKED FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION A FEW DAYS AGO AND USG ACCEDED; B) SINCE ORGANIZATION OF SUEZ REOPENING CEREMONIES SOLELY MATTER FOR EGYPT TO DECIDE, USG SAW NO REASON ASK OF OTHER FOREIGN WARSHIPS WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE, AND C) GOE DID INDICATE FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS THAT HAD ENGAGED IN SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE WOULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE INFORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES, HENCE USS OPPORTUNE (LIKE BRITISH AND FRENCH MINE HUNTER) IS NOT A PARTICIPANT. BEYOND THIS, ANY FURTHER QUERIES WILL BE REFERRED TO GOE FOR WHATEVER REPLY IT CARES TO GIVE.

EILTS UNQUOTE
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